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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS
"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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Volume: 03 Number: 1

Date: February 10, 2003

Milk Production

December Milk Production Up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major states during December totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from December 2001. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from November 2001. The November revision represented a decrease of 0.4 percent or 43 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,567 pounds for December, 18 pounds above December 2001.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.80 million head, 47,000 head more than December 2001, and 6,000 head more than November 2002.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.5 billion pounds, 1.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.15 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

Turkey Hatchery

Eggs in Incubators on January 1 Down 4 Percent

Turkey eggs in incubators on January 1, 2003, in the United States totaled 30.9 million, down 4 percent from January 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 3 percent below the December 1 total of 30.1 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central, up slightly; West North Central, up 2 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 8 percent; South Central, down 18 percent; and West, down 3 percent.

The 24.2 million poulters placed during December 2002 in the United States were down 1 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 1 percent from the November 2002 total of 24.0 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central, up slightly; West North Central, up 3 percent; North and South Atlantic, up 3 percent; South Central, down 23 percent; and West, down 12 percent.

Chickens and Eggs

2002 Summary

Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2002 totaled a record high 86.7 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year's total of 85.7 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 73.8 billion eggs, increased 1 percent from 2001. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, decreased slightly.

Layer numbers during 2002 averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2002 was 257 eggs, up slightly from the 2001 average of 256.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2002 (excluding commercial broilers) was 439 million birds, down 1 percent from last year.

Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2002, totaled 377 million, down 1 percent from December 1, 2001. Of the 377 million potential layers, 89 percent were 20 weeks old and older and the remainder were pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2002 was \$1.05 billion, down 2 percent from December 1, 2001. The average value decreased from \$2.42 per bird on December 1, 2001, to \$2.38 per bird on December 1, 2002.



2002 New Jersey Vegetable Summary

2002 Vegetable Season: The mild winter, warm spring, persistent dry summer, and favorable fall weather each had varying effects upon the vegetable crops this season. The spring planting started out early. Temperatures were about normal, while topsoil moisture was short during late spring. Growing conditions and quality of spring vegetables were generally good. The persistent dry conditions during the summer had adversely affected yield and shortened the harvest period for certain summer crops. Production of sweet corn, bell peppers, summer squash, and pumpkins was significantly lower. Fall planting was lower than the normal level due to dry soil conditions. Overall, prices were generally good because of limited supplies.

Vegetable Estimate Program Changes: As a result of federal government budget constraints, some of the vegetable estimates were dropped from the National Agricultural Statistics Service official estimate program. These crops include asparagus, eggplant, escarole & endive, and Romaine and other leaf lettuce. The New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service, however, will keep these estimates through our state estimating program.

Vegetables for Fresh Market: There are 17 fresh market vegetables in the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service estimating program. Area harvested for these fresh market vegetables in 2002 totaled 36,200 acres, compared with 36,900 acres in 2001; down 700 acres. Production amounted to 5.64 million hundredweight, a decrease of 5 percent from the 5.94 million hundredweight produced in 2001. Overall yield in 2002 averaged 156 hundredweight per acre, down 5 hundredweight from the previous year. Season average price was \$25.40 per hundredweight compared with \$23.50 in 2001, up \$1.90 per hundredweight.

Among the fresh market vegetables, only cabbage and cucumbers had higher harvested acres in 2002 than in 2001. Asparagus, collards, eggplant, escarole & endive, kale, leaf lettuce, head lettuce, Romaine lettuce, and bell pepper acres remained the same, while the remaining vegetable acres declined. Despite the decline of acreage and production, the higher season average price was enough to offset the decrease of production. The value of production increased \$4 million to a total of \$143 million.

Ranking New Jersey's fresh market vegetables by value of production showed that Jersey Fresh tomatoes were first with \$27.3 million, and bell peppers were second with \$26.2 million. Sweet corn, cucumbers, and cabbage, were third, fourth, and fifth with \$17.2 million, \$11.9 million, and \$10.7 million, respectively.

Vegetables for Processing: Harvested acreage in 2002 of the eight major processing vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, lima beans, green peas, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes) totaled 11,600 acres, compared with 10,500 acres in 2001. Harvested acres increased for green peas, snap beans, and sweet corn, while acres decreased for carrots, lima beans, spinach, and tomatoes. Total production, at 73.6 thousand tons, was a 6 percent decrease from 69.7 thousand tons in 2001. The season average price was \$124.30 per ton, compared with \$134.90 per ton in 2001; down \$10.60. The 2002 value of production at \$9.15 million was down 3 percent from \$9.40 million in 2001.

2002 New Jersey Fruit Summary

Five major fruit and berry crops grow in the Garden State: apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches, and strawberries. During the 2002 growing season, cold spring weather and drought conditions during the summer months significantly reduced the apple and peach production. There was no weather damage to berry crops despite the minor frost damage to blueberry blooms. Rainfall during the later part of September was too late to benefit the fruit crops.

Total production of the five fruit and berry crops during 2002 amounted to 185 million pounds, down 18 percent from 2001's production of 226 million pounds. Value of utilized production of the above crops totaled \$89.9 million, a gain of \$6.20 million from the 2001 total of \$83.7 million.

During 2002 among all major fruit and berry producing states in the nation, New Jersey ranked second in blueberry production; third in cranberry production; fourth in peach production; and seventeenth in apple production. Crops by value of production within the state resulted in blueberries rated first with \$46.8 million. Peaches ranked second with \$25.2 million, while cranberries ranked third with \$11.0 million. Apples and strawberries ranked fourth and fifth with \$4.83 million and \$2.08 million, respectively.

Early spring frost had significantly damaged apple and peach blossoms. Only a few orchards located in higher elevations were able to avoid frost damage. Unfavorable growing conditions adversely affected apple and peach production. Some orchards abandoned their apple crop completely due to sizing problems. Peach utilized production totaled 57.0 million pounds, down 13.0 million pounds from 2001. Apple production dropped 36% to 35.0 million pounds. Value of utilized production was \$4.83 million and \$25.2 million for apples and peaches, respectively. Both values are down from a year ago.

The value of utilized production for the 2002 blueberry and cranberry crop was \$46.8 million and \$11.0 million, respectively. The blueberry crop's bloom set was average despite some frost damage. Blueberry production, a record high, totaled 43.0 million pounds, an increase of 13 percent. Cranberry harvest was hindered in some areas due to low reservoir levels caused by lack of rainfall. Cranberry production was 430,000 barrels, down 24 percent from 566,000 barrels produced in 2001.



Agricultural Prices

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January is 99, based on 1990-92 = 100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from a revised December index. Higher prices for broilers, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset lower prices for wheat, corn, turkeys, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4 points (4.2 percent) above January 2002. Higher prices for soybeans, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and broccoli.

The Food Commodities Index increased 1 point (1.0 percent) above last month to 98, and is 1 point (1.0 percent) above January last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 126 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from December but 4 points (3.3 percent) above January 2002. Lower prices in January for feeder cattle, feed grains, milk cows, and feed concentrates are offset by higher prices for herbicides, diesel fuel, nitrogen fertilizers, and feeder pigs.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Jan 2002	Dec 2002	Jan 2003
----- Dollars -----			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.09	3.03	3.00
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	91.70	92.60	92.90
Soybeans, per bushel	4.22	5.46	5.38
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.221	.263	.258
Strawberries, per lb	1.34	1.62	1.27
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	24.80	16.40	20.20
Lettuce, per cwt	26.20	10.60	15.30
Tomatoes, per cwt	40.50	49.70	49.60
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	67.10	70.50	72.60
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	71.20	75.10	77.60
Cows, per cwt	38.00	34.60	35.50
Calves, per cwt	102.00	94.70	95.50
Broilers, live, per lb	.370	.290	.350
Eggs, all, per dozen	.623	.680	.689
Milk, all, per cwt 2/	13.40	11.90	11.80

1/ Mid-month

2/ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.